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UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

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For

CARD GAME

**This Application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Ser. No. 09/627,844
filed July 28, 2000, now pending.**

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CARD GAME

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 09/627,844, filed July 28, 2000, now pending.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention generally relates to card games and, in particular, to card games for use in casinos and cardrooms.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention is a seven-card-stub poker game, either played with at least one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus one or more Jokers, preferably four Jokers, or played with at least one standard poker deck of 52 cards wherein either all Twos, all Threes, all Fours, all Fives, all Sixes, all Sevens, all Eights, all Nines, all Tens, all Jacks, all Queens, all Kings, or all Aces are Wild Cards. Each Joker or each Wild Card can be used as any card. Two or more players, preferably seven players, may participate in the game. One of the players is the Banker whom other players play against. To play the game, a Player who is not a Banker must place a Primary Bet wager; after placing a Primary Bet wager, the Player has an option to make a Bonus Bet wager.

[0004] Once at least one wager is placed, each Player is dealt seven cards, and then each Player must select and keep his or her best 5-card poker hand and discards two other cards from each Player's seven dealt cards.

[0005] PRIMARY BET: Either one of the following three types of games can be used for the game of Primary Bet.

[0006] Aces Two Pair Or Better Bet: A Player's Aces Two Pair Or Better Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is Aces Two Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush; and the Player's wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of said winning hands. Aces Two Pair Or Better Bet pays Even Money (1 to 1) on a hand of Aces Two Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House or 4 of a Kind, and pays 2 to 1 on a hand of Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush.

[0007] 3 Of A Kind Or Better Bet: A Player's 3 Of A Kind Or Better wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush; and the Player's wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of said winning hands. 3 Of A Kind Or Better Bet pays Even Money (1 to 1) on a hand of 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush or Full House, and pays 2 to 1 on a hand of 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush.

[0008] Straight Or Better Bet: A Player's Straight Or Better Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind, Royal Flush; and the Player's wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of said winning hands. Straight Or Better Bet pays 2 to 1 on a hand of Straight, Flush or Full House, pays 5 to 2 on a hand of 4 of a Kind, and pays 3 to 1 on a hand of Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush.

[0009] BONUS BET: Either one of the following three types of games can be chosen for Bonus Bet game, and they are:

[0010] Type 1: A Player's Bonus Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind, Wild Royal Flush (Royal Flush with Joker) or Natural Royal Flush (Royal Flush with No Joker); and the Player's Bonus Bet wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of said winning hands. The

winning Bonus Bet wager is paid as follows:

[0011]	<u>Hand</u>	<u>Payout Odds</u>
	Natural Royal Flush -----	200 to 1
	Wild Royal Flush -----	50 to 1
	5 of a Kind -----	30 to 1
	Straight Flush -----	10 to 1
	4 of a Kind -----	4 to 1
	Full House -----	3 to 1
	Flush -----	1 to 1

[0012] Type 2: A Player's Bonus Bet wager wins if the player's best 5-card poker hand is Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind, Wild Royal Flush or Natural Royal Flush; the Player's wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of the above winning hands. The Player's winning wager paid as follows:

[0013]	<u>Hand</u>	<u>Payout Odds</u>
	Natural Royal Flush -----	200 to 1
	Wild Royal Flush -----	50 to 1
	5 of a Kind -----	40 to 1
	Straight Flush -----	15 to 1
	4 of a Kind-----	4 to 1
	Full House -----	3 to 1

[0014] Type 3: A Player's Bonus Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind, Wild Royal Flush or Natural Royal Flush; and the Player's Bonus bet loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of said winning hands. The Player's winning wager is paid as follows:

[0015]	<u>Hand</u>	<u>Payout Odds</u>
	Natural Royal Flush -----	200 to 1
	Wild Royal Flush -----	70 to 1
	5 of a Kind -----	50 to 1
	Straight Flush -----	20 to 1
	4 of a Kind -----	8 to 1

[0016] After reading their cards, each Player places his or her cards face up on the appropriate spaces of the table layout. The dealer then puts away the dealer's cards and settles each Player's wager or wagers against the Banker.

[0017] The objective of the present invention is to provide players a thrilling, enjoyable and relaxing gaming experience, while giving casinos a fair return on investment.

[0018] It is an advantage of the present invention that it reduces an excessive number of side bets the co-pending application no. 09/627,844 offers from 8 to 2, while enhancing the appeal of the payouts of two selected bets.

[0019] It is another advantage of the present invention that it balances the house advantage—great enough to give a casino a fair return on investment while no so large to give players the sense of winning.

[0020] It is a feature of the present invention that it provides casinos various types of games to choose from and to meets their particular need.

[0021] It is also a feature of the present invention that it offers players seven cards for reading enjoyment.

[0022] It is another feature of the present invention that It is a rapid-wager-resolution game.

[0023] Other advantages and features of the present invention will be apparent from the detailed description of the invention, the accompanying drawings and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0024] **Fig. 1** shows a Player's betting area of the table layout of the present invention: The big fill-in-black circle is a Primary Bet spot, and the circle marked 'B' is a Bonus Bet spot; the big square marked 'Best 5 Cards' is a Player's best 5-card poker hand space; and the area marked '2 Discards' is a Player's two discards space.

[0025] **Fig. 2** shows the table layout of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0026] In a preferred embodiment of the present invention provides a seven-card stud poker game, played one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus four *Jokers*. In other embodiments include versions that would be played with at least one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus at least one *Joker*. further other embodiments include versions that would be played with at least one standard poker deck of 52 cards wherein either all Twos, all Threes, all Fours, all Fives, all Sixes, all Sevens, all Eights, all Nines, all Tens, all Jacks, all Queens, all Kings, or all Aces are Wild Cards. Each *Joker* or each Wild Card, can be used as any card to form a Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind, Wild Royal Flush (Royal Flush with one or more *Jokers* or Wild Cards) or Natural Royal Flush (Royal Flush without *Jokers* nor Wild Cards).

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[0027] A preferred embodiment of the present invention offers seven positions, seating six Players and one Banker. Alternatively, lesser or greater than seven positions are contemplated in accordance with this invention. All Players play against the Banker.

[0028] In a preferred embodiment, to play the game a Player must make a Primary Bet wager; after making a Primary Bet wager, the Player has an option to make a Bonus Bet wager. In an embodiment, to play the game a Player may make either a Primary Bet wager or a Bonus Bet wager, or both.

[0029] In the preferred embodiment, after at least one wager is placed, each Player and the Banker are each dealt seven cards at one time. In an embodiment, after at least one wager is placed, each Player and the Banker are each dealt seven cards proportionally. In other embodiments, after at least one wager is placed, every Player and the Banker receive their hand in either one of the following fashions:

1. They receive their own six cards and one community card.
2. They receive their own five cards and two community cards.
3. They receive their own four cards and three community cards.
4. They receive their own three cards and four community cards.
5. They receive their own two cards and five community cards.
6. They receive their own one card and six community cards. And
7. They receive no card their own and seven community cards.

[0030] In a preferred embodiment, after each Player is dealt seven cards, each Player must select and keep his or her best 5-card poker hand and discards two other cards from each Player's seven dealt cards. In an embodiment, if Players are allowed to bet on the value of the Banker's hand, the dealer must select and keep the Banker's best 5-card poker hand and discards two other cards from the Banker's seven dealt cards.

[0031] After reading their cards, each Player places his or her cards face up on the appropriate spaces of the table layout. If Players are not allowed to bet on the Banker's hand, the dealer then puts away the dealer's cards into a discard rack or discard area and settles each Player's wager or wagers against the Banker. If players are allowed to bet on the Banker's hand, the dealer then reveals the Banker's hand and settles each

Player's wager or wagers against the Banker.

[0032] PRIMARY BET: Either one of the following three types of games can be used for the Primary Bet.

[0033] Aces Two Pair Or Better Bet: A Player's Aces Two Pair Or Better Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is Aces Two Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush; and the Player's wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of said winning hands. Aces Two Pair Or Better Bet pays Even Money (1 to 1) on a hand of Aces Two Pair, 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House or 4 of a Kind, and pays 2 to 1 on a hand of Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush. This payout odds yields about 2.16% house advantage wherein the present invention is played with one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus 4 Jokers. Alternatively, a Player's winning Aces Two Or Better Bet wager can be paid according to any other predetermined pay table or a predetermined payoff odds.

[0034] 3 Of A Kind Or Better Bet: A Player's 3 Of A Kind Or Better Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush. The Player's bet loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is one of said winning hands. 3 Of A Kind Or Better Bet pays Even Money (1 to 1) on a hand of 3 of a Kind, Straight, Flush or Full House, and pays 2 to 1 on a hand of 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush. This payout odds yields about 2.43% house advantage wherein the present invention is played with one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus 4 Jokers. Alternatively, a Player's winning 3 Of A Kind Or Better Bet wager can be paid according to any other predetermined pay table or a predetermined payoff odds.

[0035] Straight Or Better Bet: A Player's Straight Or Better Bet wager wins if the

Player's best 5-card poker hand is Straight, Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush; and the Player's wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of said winning hands. Straight Or Better Bet pays 2 to 1 on a hand of Straight, Flush or Full House, pays 5 to 2 on a hand of 4 of a Kind, and pays 3 to 1 on a hand of Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind or Royal Flush. This payout odds yields about 2.32% house advantage wherein the present invention is played with one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus 4 Jokers. Alternatively, a Player's winning Straight Or Better Bet wager can be paid according to any other predetermined pay table or a predetermined payoff odds.

[0036] BONUS BET: Either one of the following three types of games can be chosen for Bonus Bet game, and they are:

[0037] Type 1: A Player's Bonus Bet wager wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is Flush, Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind, Wild Royal Flush or Natural Royal Flush; and the Player's Bonus Bet wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of said winning hands. The winning Bonus Bet wager is paid as follows:

[0038]	<u>Hand</u>	<u>Payout Odds</u>
	Natural Royal Flush -----	200 to 1
	Wild Royal Flush -----	50 to 1
	5 of a Kind -----	30 to 1
	Straight Flush -----	10 to 1
	4 of a Kind -----	4 to 1
	Full House -----	3 to 1
	Flush -----	1 to 1

[0039] This payout odds yields about 4.54% house advantage wherein the present invention is played with one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus 4 Jokers. Alternatively, a Player's winning Bonus Bet wager can be paid according to any other predetermined pay

table or a predetermined payoff odds.

[0040] Type 2: A Player's Bonus Bet wager wins if the player's best 5-card poker hand is Full House, 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind, Wild Royal Flush (Royal Flush with Joker) or Natural Royal Flush (Royal Flush with No Joker); the Player's wager loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of the above winning hands. The Player's winning wager paid as follows:

[0041]	<u>Hand</u>	<u>Payout Odds</u>
	Natural Royal Flush -----	200 to 1
	Wild Royal Flush -----	50 to 1
	5 of a Kind -----	40 to 1
	Straight Flush -----	15 to 1
	4 of a Kind-----	4 to 1
	Full House -----	3 to 1

[0042] This pay table yields about 4.25% house advantage wherein the present invention is played with one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus 4 Jokers. Alternatively, a Player's winning Bonus Bet wager can be paid according to any other predetermined pay table or a predetermined payoff odds.

[0043] Type 3: A Player's Bonus bet wins if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is 4 of a Kind, Straight Flush, 5 of a Kind, Wild Royal Flush or Natural Royal Flush; and the Player's Bonus bet loses if the Player's best 5-card poker hand is not one of said winning hands. The Player's winning wager is paid as follows:

[0044]	<u>Hand</u>	<u>Payout Odds</u>
	Natural Royal Flush -----	200 to 1
	Wild Royal Flush -----	70 to 1
	5 of a Kind -----	50 to 1

Straight Flush ----- 20 to 1

4 of a Kind ----- 8 to 1

[0045] This pay table yields about 5.65% house advantage wherein the present invention is played with one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus 4 Jokers. Alternatively, a Player's winning Bonus Bet wager can be paid according to any other predetermined pay table or a predetermined payoff odds.

[0046] Rules of Regarding Banker's Hand: In a preferred embodiment, Players are not allowed to bet on the value of the Banker's hand, therefore, the Banker's hand is not considered for play, although the Banker is also dealt seven cards. In an embodiment, Players are allowed to bet on the value of the Banker's hand, therefore, the Banker's hand is considered for play.

[0047] Alternatively, the present invention can be designed to offer either only Primary Bet or only Bonus Bet; and either one or both of two said bets can be chosen to be part of any game that is played with at least one standard poker deck of 52 cards plus at least one Joker or with at least one standard poker deck of 52 cards wherein either all Twos, all Threes, all Fours, all Fives, all Sixes, all Sevens, all Eights, all Nines, all Tens, all Jacks, all Queens, all Kings, or all Aces are Wild Cards.

[0048] The Version of Draw Poker of the Present Invention: Using the same rules of play of the present invention or making some modifications to the rules of play of the present invention, one or more new versions of the present invention can be created as follows: Instead of every Player and the Banker are each dealt seven cards, they are each dealt six cards, and then either each Player draws no card and selects and keep his or her best 5-card poker hand and discards one card from his or her six dealt cards, or each Player discards one card and draws one card from the remaining deck of cards and then

selects and keeps his or her best 5-card poker hand and discards another card; and a Player's winning wager can be paid according to either 1) a predetermined payoff odds, 2) a predetermined pay table, or 3) first predetermined pay table for winning no-draw hands (hands of first six dealt cards that draw no card) and second predetermined pay table for winning draw hands (hands that draw one card).